PACIFIC PRESENTS...
$1.50
$2.00 CANADA
NO. 3
THE WILDLY PLAUSIBLE PLIGHT OF
EERIE SMITH
And
WALTER WEARY
WALTER! OUR SUBATOMIC ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ALTERED!
WE'VE BECOME DWELLERS IN THE MULTIVERSE!
MAINTENANCE
WEARY
GREAT--
PLUS
DITKO'S
MISSING MAN
AND
Vanity
BY WILL MEUGNIOT

PACIFIC PRESENTS

PACIFIC COMICS, 8423 Production Avenue, San Diego, California 92121-2278

Welcome to *Pacific Presents* #3. As many of you know, the originally scheduled lead feature for the third issue was "The Rocketeer" by Dave Stevens. Since *Pacific Presents* is now an ongoing series, we have had to do a bit of juggling with the contents. This is to allow Dave Stevens more time with his art. We have re-scheduled "The Rocketeer." It will now appear in *Pacific Presents* #5, on sale in early summer. You will be treated to a twenty page "Rocketeer" installment at that time, however, and it's the best one yet.

"The Missing Man" by Steve Ditko continues this issue, this time with an assist by Robin Snyder on the scripting. Here is comic art's grand master at his unnerving best, providing pencils and inks on a powerhouse of a story. We encourage Ditko fans to watch for new Ditko art and story in *The Ditko World* coming this summer from Fantagraphics Books. We should be seeing *The Art of Steve Ditko* from Eclipse about that time.

We offer the first glimpses of two new series this time out, "Vanity" by Will Meugniot and "E. Erie Smith and Walter Weary" by Tim Conrad. The wacky plight of Mr. Conrad's dwellers in the multi-verse unfolds (careens is more like it, really) across a tapestry of mirrorshard and bits of equations. I don't know about *you,* but my physics class was never like this. We'll be following the exploits of our erstwhile duo in *Pacific Presents* #4, and again in issue #6. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do.

Vanity will star in her own bimonthly comic title beginning in March. Will is best-known as artist/co-creator (with Mark Evanier) on *DNAgents.* Vanity is all-Meugniot's, and he's giving it his all. She is a rollicking, rolling heroine who'll bring a lot of the fun back to your comic reading. She's a heroine whose adventures span the age of man, and who arrives in mankind's darkest hour to save to planet. Vanity is a well-named lass, but how deep can anyone's vanity go? The enormity of the answer will surprise you. *Vanity* comics will have a regular back-up feature, "Avalone," by writer David Campiti, artist David Ross, and inker Dan Adkins. Watch for it next month at your local comic book store. Meanwhile, enjoy your *sneak preview* right here.

Our next issue will be available in two months. Besides the above mentioned "E. Erie Smith" story, we are presenting two stories featuring the outstanding inking of Ian Akin and Brian Garvey. We're going to be showing you their embellishment of the pencils of Mel Keefer (on a story written by Bob Haney) and Helmut Eppich (on a Bruce Jones script). To top it off, *Pacific Presents* #4 will sport an Akin and Garvey cover. Watch for it!

— David Scroggy
Editor

PACIFIC PRESENTS, Vol. 1, No. 3, March, 1984. Bill Schanes and Steve Schanes, Publishers. David Scroggy, Editorial Director. Steve Schanes, Art Director. Paul Tallerday, Production Coordinator. Kevin Montano, Jon Hartz, and Ken Krueger, Circulation Managers. Office of publication: 8423 Production Avenue, San Diego, California 92121-2278, U.S.A. Telephone (619) 566-3290.
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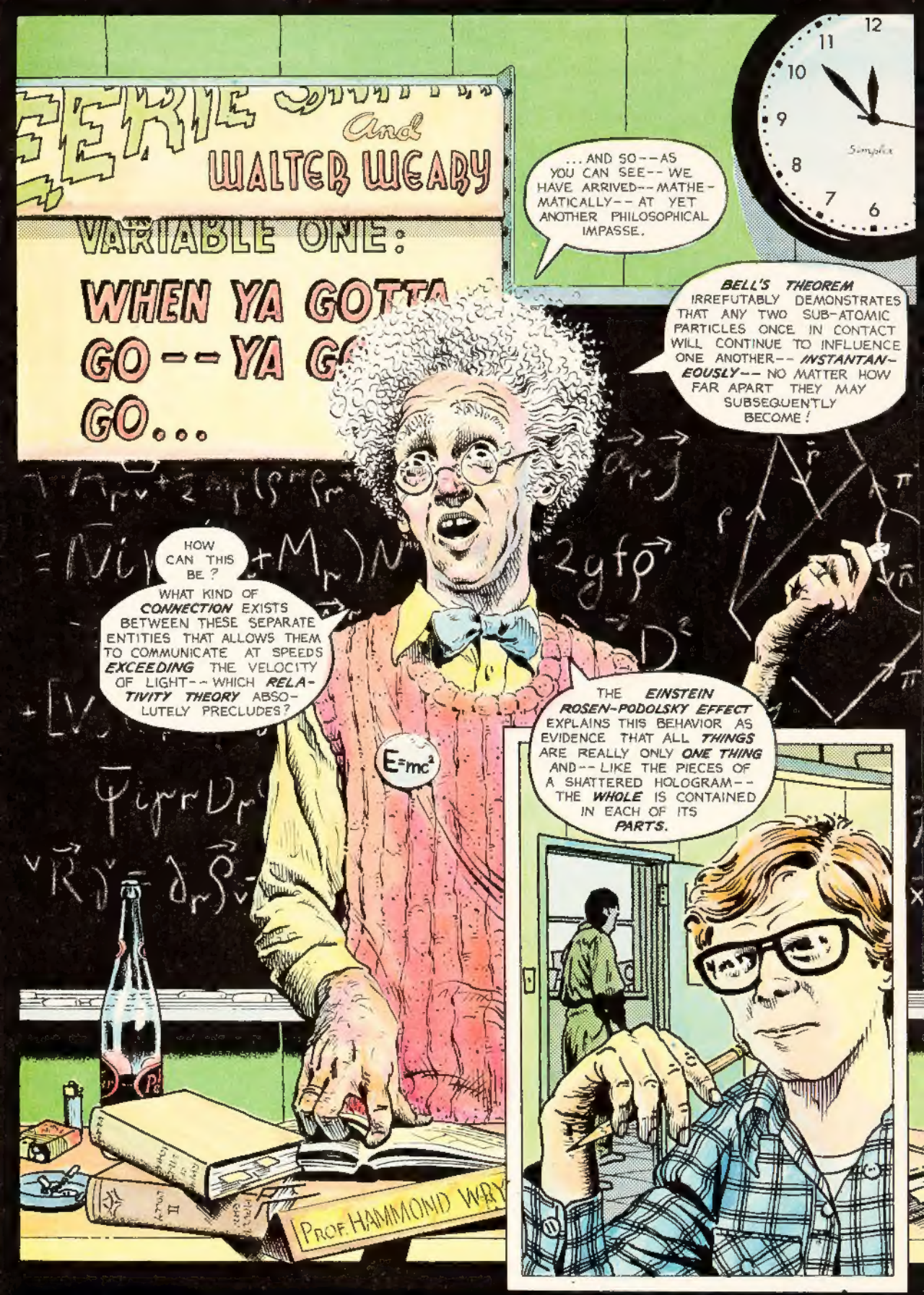

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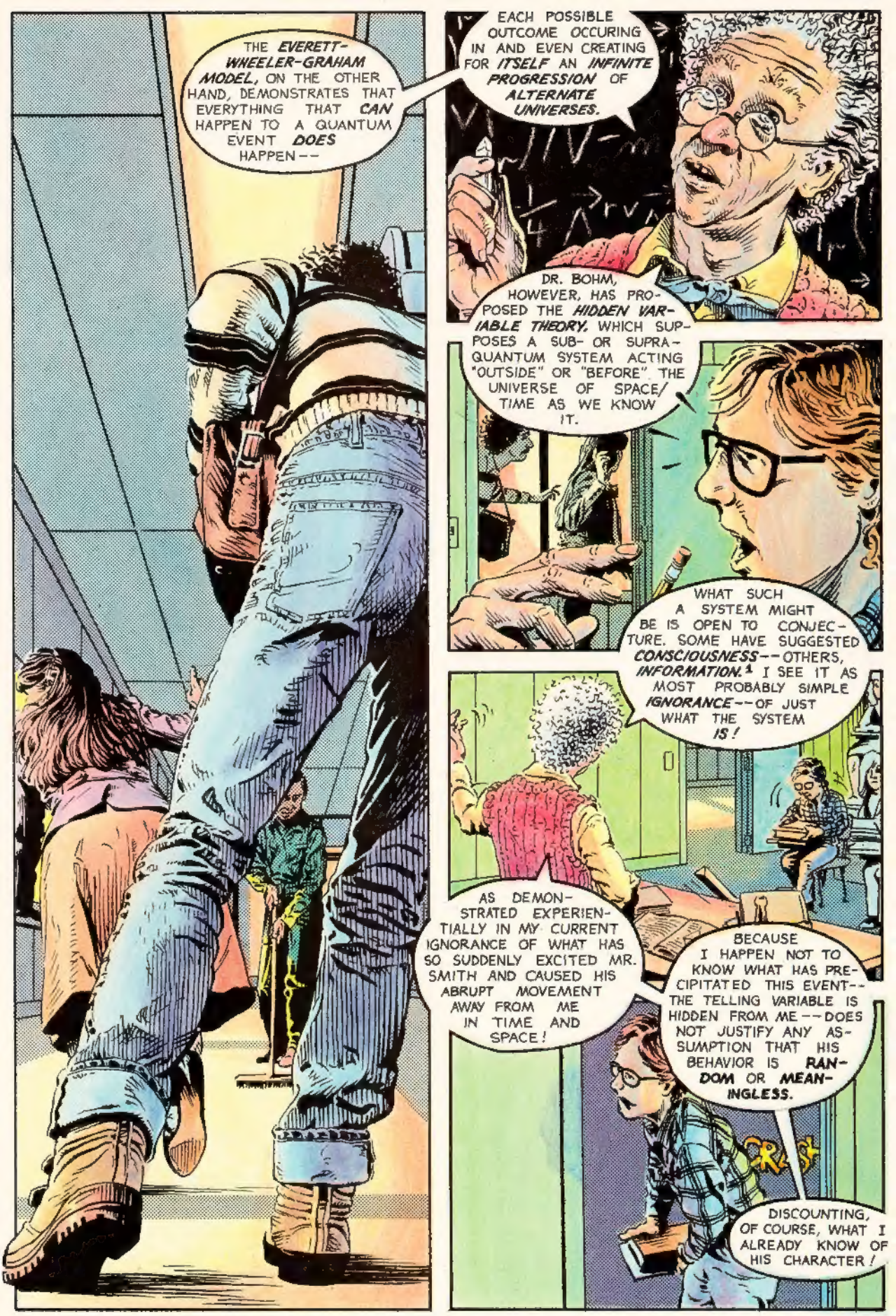

[1] SEE THE DANCING WU LI MASTERS BY GARY ZUKAV AND THE TAO OF PHYSICS BY FRITJOF CAPRA.

THROUGH HERE, GARY! GET SOME SHOTS OF THE CR--
WHO--?
JESS! JESSICA! HI!
IT'S ME-- ERIE! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET AHOLD OF YOU FOR A WEEK!

LAST TIME WE WENT OUT YOU SAID YOU'D LIKE TO DO A STORY ON THE NEW CYCLOTRON, REMEMBER? WELL, I'M GOING TO BE USING IT THIS AFTERNOON AND WE COULD--
OH-- GEE-- ERIE. I CAN'T POSSIBLY TODAY. THE NETWORKS ARE ASKING FOR A FEED FROM CAMPUS CABLE ON THIS NUCLEAR FREEZE RALLY--

THE NETWORKS, ERIE. IF I DO IT WELL ENOUGH THEY MAY EVEN USE MY VOICE-OVER AND NOT JUST THE PICTURES!
HOW ABOUT DINNER, THEN. I'LL BE DONE BY 5 AND WE COULD GO AHEAD AND COVER THE--
HELL NO WE WON'T GLO
SORRY--NOT TONIGHT-- GARY AND I HAVE TO EDIT THIS FILM--I HAVE TO POLISH MY COPY AND SYNC THE V.O. THE NETWORKS MIGHT CALL AND--

THEN HOW AB--
NO-- SORRY, ERIE, I HAVE TO GO--THE RALLY'S MOVING OUT.
CALL ME--

FREEZE!
HAVE YOU GOTTEN A COPY OF OUR DEMANDS, SIR?
SPARE ME--
YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE APPRECIATED --
RIGHT.
CHEESE-BURGER, LARGE FRIES AND A MEDIUM COKE--
FOR HERE.
TV GUIDE
MR. SMITH GOES APE!

ALL RIGHT! ALL CHARGED UP AND READY TO GO! THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL ATOM SMASHER MEETS THE CUSTOM SYNC-AMP DESIGN OF E. ERIE SMITH!
REPEAL THE LAW OF GRAVITY
WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S TH-- OH, JUST A LITTLE FEEDBACK FROM THE PRE-AMP.
NOTHING A LITTLE MAKE-SHIFT WAVE SHIELD WON'T ALLEVIATE!
REPEAL THE LAW OF GRAVITY
MAN-O-MAN! WHEN THIS LITTLE IMPROVEMENT OF MINE COPS A NOBEL PRIZE, LITTLE MISS TV NEWS-PERSON IS GONNA REALLY WONDER WHY SHE THOUGHT SOME USELESS PROTEST RALLY WAS MORE EXCITING THAN WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING HERE --IN THE ATOMIC AGE!

SO *NOW*-- LET'S FIRE THIS SUCKER UP!

AND *SMASH APART* SOME ATOMS!

NOW!

WAIT A MINUTE-- THE PRESSURE INDICATION FLUCTUATED. *THAT'S* NOT RIGHT.

UNLESS THE VARIANCE IS *EXTERNAL.*

BUT THAT'S IMPOS--

STOP!

SO *NOW*-- LET'S FIRE THIS SUCKER UP!

AND *SMASH APART* SOME ATOMS!

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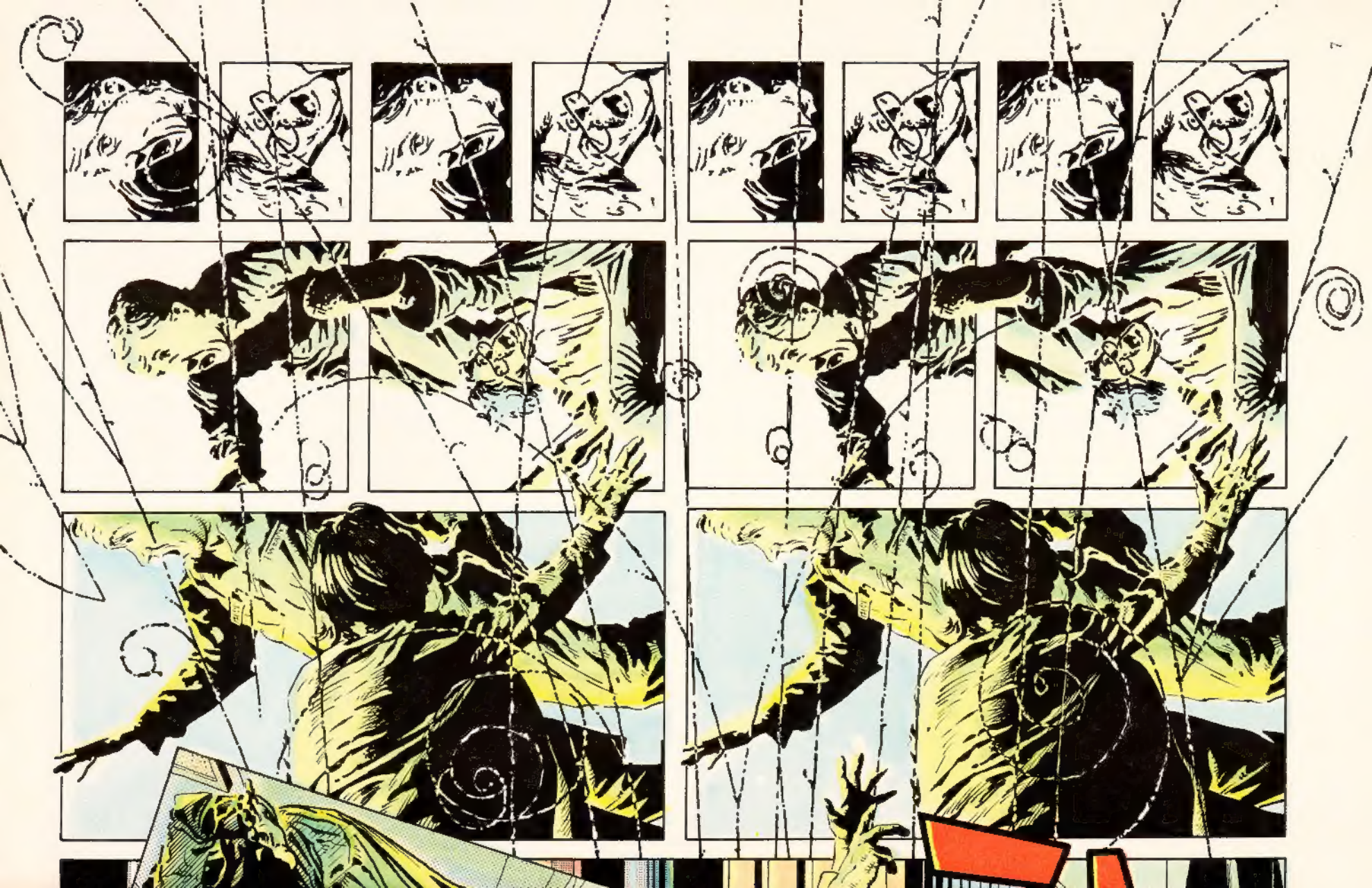
STOP



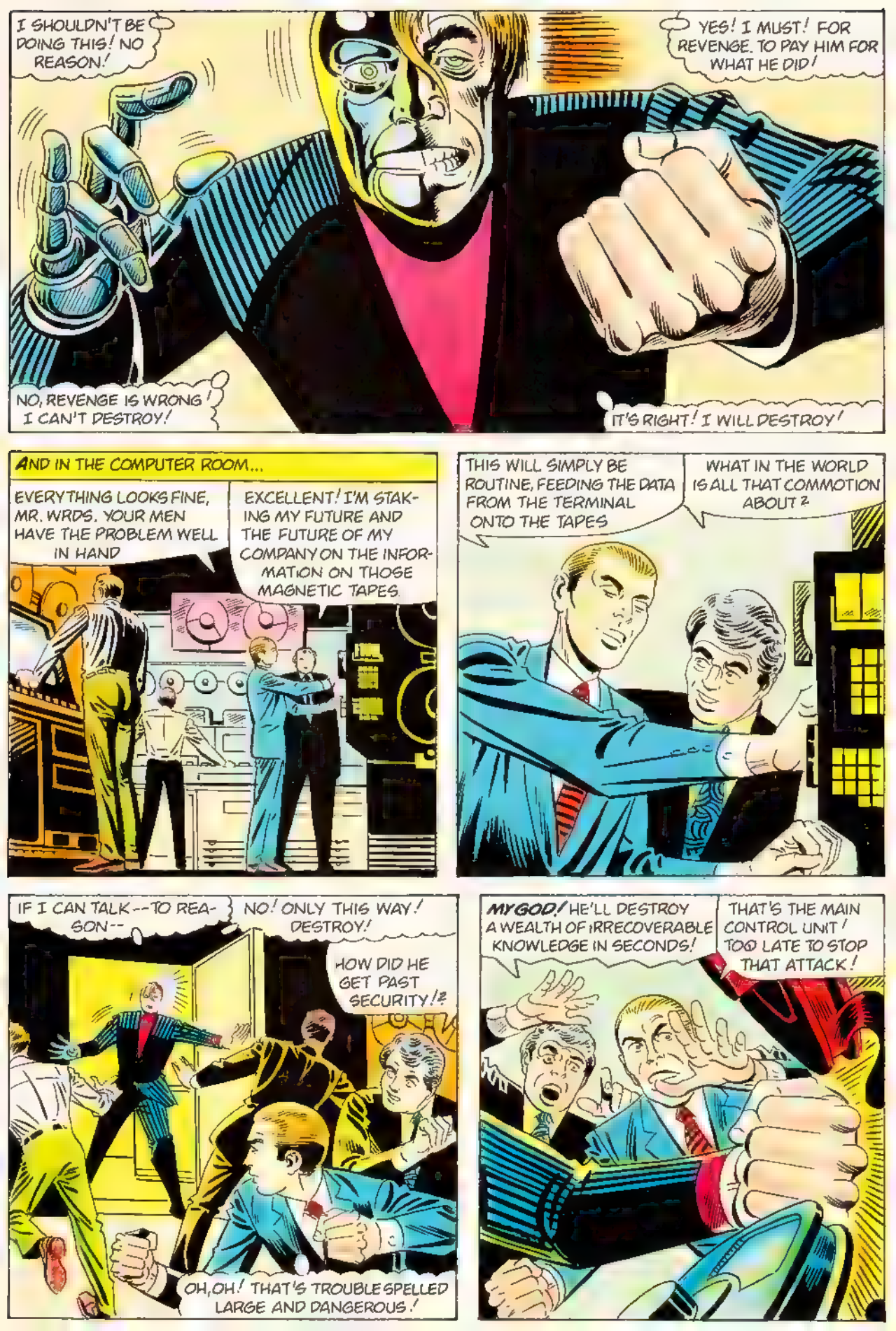
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT!?
I--I'M NOT--
MAYBE IT--
BUT--
WELL, LISTEN, DOC--WHATEVER IT WAS--I DON'T WANT TO DO IT AGAIN, YA KNOW?
WE SEEM TO BE ALL RIGHT, THOUGH. DIDN'T EVEN PASS OUT. I DON'T THINK I ACTUALLY EVEN FELT ANYTHING--BUT
YEAH--WELL I HOPE YOU FIGURE IT OUT. I'M GOING NOW--TO SCRUB OUT SOME TOILETS--OR SOMETHING, OK?
BUT I WAS AWARE OF IT! I KNEW IT WAS HAPPENING! I EXPERIENCED THE WASH OF SUB ATOMIC PARTICLES! THERE WAS A PRONOUNCED SUBJECTIVE PERCEPTION! A--A--
UH--SAY, DOC--I--I THINK YOU BETTER COME AND PERCEIVE THIS--!
MAINTENANCE
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE MISSING MAN
©82 S. DITKO

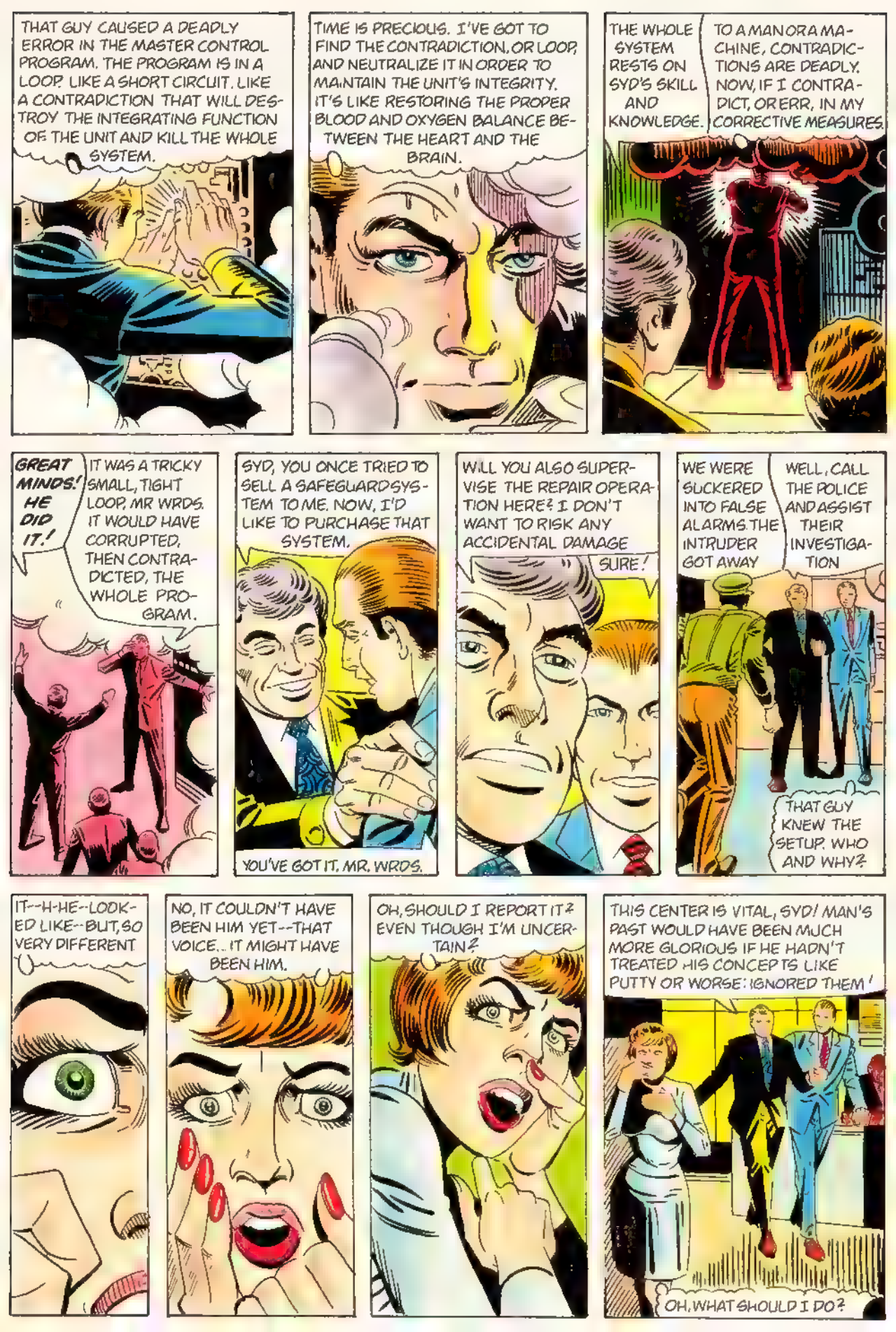
"AM I MARO, ROMA, OR RAEM?"

THE CALM, QUIET BUSINESS-LIKE ATMOSPHERE OF WORDS PROCESSING IS SUDDENLY SHATTERED WHEN...

DIALOGUE: ROBIN SNYDER LETTERS: ANDY KUBERT COLORS: DARYL ISAACS


I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS! NO REASON!
YES! I MUST! FOR REVENGE. TO PAY HIM FOR WHAT HE DID!
NO, REVENGE IS WRONG! I CAN'T DESTROY!
IT'S RIGHT! I WILL DESTROY!
AND IN THE COMPUTER ROOM...
EVERYTHING LOOKS FINE, MR. WRDS. YOUR MEN HAVE THE PROBLEM WELL IN HAND
EXCELLENT! I'M STAKING MY FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF MY COMPANY ON THE INFORMATION ON THOSE MAGNETIC TAPES
THIS WILL SIMPLY BE ROUTINE, FEEDING THE DATA FROM THE TERMINAL ONTO THE TAPES
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS ALL THAT COMMOTION ABOUT?
IF I CAN TALK--TO REASON--
NO! ONLY THIS WAY! DESTROY!
HOW DID HE GET PAST SECURITY!?
OH,OH! THAT'S TROUBLE SPELLED LARGE AND DANGEROUS!
MY GOD! HE'LL DESTROY A WEALTH OF IRRECOVERABLE KNOWLEDGE IN SECONDS!
THAT'S THE MAIN CONTROL UNIT! TOO LATE TO STOP THAT ATTACK!

NO SECURITY GUARDS. IT'S UP TO ME...
BUT NOT AS SYD MANE!
THE WHIRLING SMOKE HIDES THE EERIE TRANSFORMATION...
I'VE GOT TO LEAD HIM AWAY FROM THE CONSOLE
YES, YES, PLEASE STOP ME.
NO. I CANNOT--I WILL NOT BE STOPPED.
OH, GOOD! HE'LL STOP ME!
NO! HE WON'T STOP ME!
I CAN'T HURT ANYONE.
I'LL DESTROY HIM FIRST!
GREAT! I'VE GOT HIM INSIDE!
LOOK OUT!
HE'S BACK!
THAT SMOKE! OPEN MORE WINDOWS!
THE CLANGING OF THE SECURITY ALARM STARTLES THE TWO COMBATANTS
GOOD, THEY'LL CATCH ME!
NO! I MUST GET AWAY!
I'LL LET SECURITY HANDLE THIS GUY!
SYD IS NEEDED BACK IN THE COMPUTER ROOM!
THE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO THE BRAIN. IT WON'T BE EASY TO REPAIR. MAYBE IMPOSSIBLE!


THAT GUY CAUSED A DEADLY ERROR IN THE MASTER CONTROL PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM IS IN A LOOP. LIKE A SHORT CIRCUIT. LIKE A CONTRADICTION THAT WILL DESTROY THE INTEGRATING FUNCTION OF THE UNIT AND KILL THE WHOLE SYSTEM.
TIME IS PRECIOUS. I'VE GOT TO FIND THE CONTRADICTION, OR LOOP, AND NEUTRALIZE IT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE UNIT'S INTEGRITY. IT'S LIKE RESTORING THE PROPER BLOOD AND OXYGEN BALANCE BETWEEN THE HEART AND THE BRAIN.
THE WHOLE SYSTEM RESTS ON SYD'S SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE.
TO A MAN OR A MACHINE, CONTRADICTIONS ARE DEADLY. NOW, IF I CONTRADICT, OR ERR, IN MY CORRECTIVE MEASURES.
GREAT MINDS! HE DID IT.!
IT WAS A TRICKY SMALL, TIGHT LOOP, MR WRDS. IT WOULD HAVE CORRUPTED, THEN CONTRADICTED, THE WHOLE PROGRAM.
SYD, YOU ONCE TRIED TO SELL A SAFEGUARD SYSTEM TO ME. NOW, I'D LIKE TO PURCHASE THAT SYSTEM.
YOU'VE GOT IT, MR. WRDS.
WILL YOU ALSO SUPERVISE THE REPAIR OPERATION HERE? I DON'T WANT TO RISK ANY ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE
SURE!
WE WERE SUCKERED INTO FALSE ALARMS. THE INTRUDER GOT AWAY
WELL, CALL THE POLICE AND ASSIST THEIR INVESTIGATION
THAT GUY KNEW THE SETUP. WHO AND WHY?
IT--H-HE--LOOKED LIKE--BUT, SO VERY DIFFERENT
NO, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HIM YET--THAT VOICE.. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIM.
OH, SHOULD I REPORT IT? EVEN THOUGH I'M UNCERTAIN?
THIS CENTER IS VITAL, SYD! MAN'S PAST WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE GLORIOUS IF HE HADN'T TREATED HIS CONCEPTS LIKE PUTTY OR WORSE: IGNORED THEM!
OH, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

LANGUAGE, SYD. LANGUAGE IS THE KEY TO PROPER HUMAN INTERCOURSE ARISTOTLE SAID "HOW MANY A DISPUTE COULD HAVE BEEN DEFLATED INTO A SINGLE PARAGRAPH IF THE DISPUTANTS HAD DARED TO DEFINE THEIR TERMS." I INTEND TO DEFINE THOSE TERMS, SYD. I INTEND TO DEFINE LANGUAGE
A MAN'S MIND IS AS EFFICIENT AS THE VALIDITY OF THE CONCEPTS HE USES. IT'S THE REAL AND THE TRUE THAT WORK, SYD. CONTAMINATE AND CONTRADICT LANGUAGE AND YOU'VE GUARANTEED FAILURE. IT'S LIKE A COMPUTER FED GIBBERISH!
WE'RE STARTING WITH REALITY AND THE LAW OF IDENTITY, SYD. A IS WHAT IT IS: A. WE INTEND TO ESTABLISH DEFINITION BY ESSENTIALS, ROOT OUT FALSE AXIOMS, INVALID ANTI-CONCEPTS AND ALL THE FALLACIES THAT PERMIT THE IRRATIONAL TO BE TREATED AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN WHAT IT IS: THE INHUMAN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M WRONG?
THE POLICE AND SYD'S SYSTEM WILL SOLVE MY SECURITY PROBLEMS!
TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS!
I KNOW IT'S WRONG!
I FEEL IT'S RIGHT!
HALTINGLY, EVA COMES TO A DECISION... OF SORTS...
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE CALLED THE POLICE WITH MY SUSPICIONS...
NO FIRST I WANT TO SEE FOR MYSELF BE SURE.
OH, MY! DOES THIS PLACE BRING BACK THE MEMORIES! HE ONCE LOVED ME. WANTED TO GET MARRIED HE WAS A GOOD MAN HE WOULDN'T HARM ME.
RAEM? IS THAT YOU? IT'S ME. EVA I WANT TO TALK TO YOU
RAEM?... RAEM?... OH, YES! IT'S ME... NO! NOT ME!... MAYBE?.. MAYBE NOT!
OH, WHO--WHAT AM I?

RAEM, DID YOU HEAR ME?

RAEM. YES. I'M RAEM!... NO! ROMA! I'M ROMA. I'M NOT ALL MAN!... OR AM I MARO? I'M NOT ALL ROBOT!

WHO AM I? RAEM? ROMA? MARO? WHAT AM I? MAN? ROBOT?

YOU MUST REMEMBER ME! EVA!

OH, YES, SWEET EVA,

YOU TURNED AGAINST ME!

NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE!

SHE DIDN'T

I SAY SHE DID

RAEM, I SWEAR-

I BELIEVE YOU, EVA.

YOUR LYING

OH, RAEM! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

I DON'T KNOW.

SHE MUST PAY FOR WHAT HAPPENED!

AAARGH

NO.. YES!... I MUSTN'T... I MUST... OH, WHO WILL DECIDE?

SHE WAS MY FIANCEE. I LOVE HER SO MUCH. I CAN'T HURT MY EVA!

THE TRAITORESS! I HATE HER! I WILL! I MUST MAKE HER PAY!

WHAT? WHAT SHALL I DO? FREE HER? KILL HER?

THE FOLLOWING DAY...

NO! NOTHING TO REPORT ON YOUR INTRUDER YET THIS IS ANOTHER MATTER. AN EMPLOYEE OF YOURS, MISS EVA BELL, DIED IN AN ACCIDENT, IT SEEMS.

EVA? OH, NO!

AN ACCIDENT? I WONDER? A COINCIDENCE? POSSIBLE--

--OR SHE COULD BE A LINK TO THE ATTACKER! A WEAK LINK. AN ERROR IN AN EVIL PATTERN THAT HAD TO BE ELIMINATED!

BLAST IT, I SHOULD HAVE HAD MA LOOK INTO THIS! THE COMPLEX ISN'T FAIL-SAFE! I HAVE TO KNOW -- TO BE SURE!

MEANWHILE .
HE WAS GOOD TO ME
HE'S TO BLAME! HE HURT ME!
HE TREATED ME DECENTLY
HE WRONGED ME!
HE'S NOT TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED.
IT'S HIS FAULT!
NO, I SHOULDN'T DO THIS.
YES, I MUST MAKE HIM PAY!
MA'S DETECTIVE AGENCY...
HELLO, SYD. YES, EVA BELL WAS ONCE THE FIANCEE OF RAEM LANET, A BRILLIANT TECHNICIAN AT WRDS' COMPLEX.
HE WAS TO LEAVE WRDS FOR A RIVAL OUTFIT--BARKER OF NDS--BUT WENT TO WORK FOR A THIRD COMPANY SO FAR I HAVE TALK, NOT FACTS THEY WERE A SECRETIVE BUNCH--INTERNATIONAL MONEY INVOLVED AND IT WAS MEDICAL, OR SCIENTIFIC, OR A COMPUTER OUTFIT, OR A COMBINATION!
THEY HAD A FAILURE OF SOME KIND, SOMEONE DID A GOOD COVER-UP JOB. NOT MUCH ON IT. NO BIG ISSUE ABOUT IT, THAT'S IT SO FAR. I'LL KEEP DIGGING
NO CLEAR-CUT VERDICT ON EVA'S DEATH. IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, AN AUTOPSY SHOULD DETERMINE THAT
I'LL PAY A VISIT TO BARKER, AS A COMPETITOR, HE MAY BE TRYING TO PUT MR WRDS OUT OF BUSINESS USING TERROR TACTICS!
I ALWAY'S LIKED MR WRDS.
I ALWAYS HATED HIM!
HE'S DONE NOTHING.
HE'LL PAY FOR WHAT HE DID!

RAEM HAD IMPRESSIVE QUALIFICATIONS; THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO HIRE HIM --LIKE SEEKING THE BEST MEDICINE OR TOOL
ARO
WE TALKED. I NOTICED A FLAW IN HIM. HE'D RATHER CHOOSE PRESTIGE OVER VALUE. BOTH WRDS AND I ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL WORK. RAEM WAS DISSATISFIED. HE WAS SEEKING FAME--WHATEVER THE ROUTE.
ADDO
SO HE LEFT WRDS TO WORK FOR A SECRETIVE OUTFIT. RUMOR WAS, THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO 'COMPUTER-PROGRAM' A MIND.
CHILLING, EH? WELL, THEY HAD AN ACCIDENT. THE PLACE WAS SHUT DOWN. EVERYONE THERE JUST DISAPPEARED. SOME SAY TO AN OVERSEAS BRANCH. THAT'S ABOUT IT
AS FOR THE ATTACK...LOOK! I BELIEVE OUR SYSTEMS ARE SUPERIOR TO WRDS! AND IT WOULDN'T BOTHER ME TO PUT HIM OUT OF BUSINESS.
BUT I'M WILLING TO LET THE BETTER PRODUCT PROVE ITSELF IN THE MARKETPLACE. EVEN IF I'M THE ONE DRIVEN OUT! I WON'T DELIBERATELY UNDERCUT MY PRODUCT. SO WHY UNDERCUT. SOUND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES?
I AM A BUSINESSMAN. I RESPECT THE MIND AND I WANT JUSTICE. I TRADE VALUE FOR VALUE. UNEARNED PROFITS OR PRESTIGE ARE FOR PARASITES AND CRIMINALS
MR WRDS WILL HAVE TO SUPPLY THE MISSING LINKS TO THIS FUZZY PATTERN
I MUST TURN BACK
NO! NO TURNING BACK!
I MUST FAIL!
THIS TIME I'LL SUCCEED
I WANT TO LEAVE
I'LL LEAVE HIM DEAD!
WRDS IS MY FRIEND
MY ENEMY!

AH, FINE, FINE. WITH SYD'S NEW SAFEGUARD SYSTEM, ALL MY WORRIES ARE BEHIND ME
YOU AGAIN! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
HELP ME, PLEASE. I'M SO CONFUSED.
I'M HERE TO KILL YOU! DON'T NEED HELP! I HATE YOU!
I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT IF YOU NEED HELP--I'LL DO WHAT I CAN!
OH, PLEASE HELP ME!
NO! NO HELP!
HELP--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
IT IS TOO LATE FOR HIM
YOU WERE GOOD TO ME, ONCE.
NO! YOU ARE TO BLAME FOR WHAT OCCURED!
PLEASE! 'ONCE?' 'WHAT OCCURED'? YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE. HOW DID I HURT YOU? WHEN? WHERE?
SOMEHOW. . HE--HE LOOKS FAMILIAR?
I FORGET--BUT, YOU WERE KIND!
NO! I REMEMBER YOU WERE MEAN!
FOR THAT--I WILL KILL!
OH, NO! I CAN'T! PLEASE STOP ME!

GET BACK!
YES BACK
NO! GO AWAY!
STOP ME!
NO! I MUST KILL WRDS!
CAN'T KILL!
MUST KILL!
MUST LEAVE~
NO! NO! WRDS IS MY TARGET--MY ENEMY! MUST KILL!
HE HAS A FANATICAL, DRIVING PURPOSE! HOW CAN I STOP HIM?
WAIT! LISTEN! THIS MAY BE YOUR ONLY CHANCE; CAN YOU DO IT?
MR WRDS! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH,--GASP--MY HEART!
STOP! CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S HAVING A HEART ATTACK!
MR WRDS IS DEAD! AND YOU--YOU KILLED HIM!
OH, NO! HE WAS MY FRIEND!
HAH! GOOD! HE WAS MY ENEMY!
THIS WAS A MISTAKE. IT WAS WRONG. HE DIDN'T DESERVE TO DIE--FOR NOTHING. FORGIVE ME. I AM SO SORRY.
NO! IT WAS RIGHT AND PROPER. HE IS TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED. I'M GLAD WRDS IS DEAD!

HE BOUGHT IT! CALL SECURITY, RESTRAIN HIM, BUT DON'T HURT HIM!

I FEEL THE SAME WAY. HE-- HE REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE! BUT--WHO? OH, MAKE THE CALL!

OWD

AFTER THE CALL TO SECURITY IS PLACED..

WHEW! IT WAS TOUCH AND GO THERE FOR AWHILE. WHO THE DEVIL DOES HE REMIND ME OF--**GOD, NO!** IT CAN'T BE, BUT, **YES! RAEM!** I SEE IT NOW! HE WORKED FOR ME--LEFT--WOUND UP WORKING FOR A SECRET OUTFIT...

...IT'S UNCANNY! RAEM--OR, WHAT HE IS NOW--ACTS AS IF HIS MIND IS UNFOCUSED. AS IF IT WERE SPLIT IN TWO. AT TIMES HIS RATIONAL SIDE PERCEIVES, IDENTIFIES AND INTEGRATES SENSORY EVIDENCE PROPERLY

...AND THEN HIS EMOTIONAL DISVALUE RESPONSES KICK IN AND OVERRIDE HIS REASON--HIS RATIONAL JUDGEMENTS. THAT LETHAL CONTRADICTION MUST BE TEARING HIM APART. INTO TWO SEPERATE ENTITIES. THE PROBLEMS IN INTERFACE WITH HIS ROBOTIC HALF AND HIS HUMAN HALF ARE LITERALLY DESTROYING HIM! LIKE AN ERROR IN A PROGRAM THAT SHORT CIRCUITS THE TERMINAL...EERIE!

HE CAN'T LAST LONG AT WAR WITH HIMSELF!

MY **EXACT** THOUGHTS! THE QUESTION IS: CAN HE STILL BE REACHED--SAVED?

MAN, I HOPE SO!

LET'S HOPE YOUR GUARDS GOT HIM.

I'M SORRY, SIR HE GOT AWAY FROM US!

BLAST IT! HE KNOWS OUR SECURITY TOO WELL! CALL THE POLICE

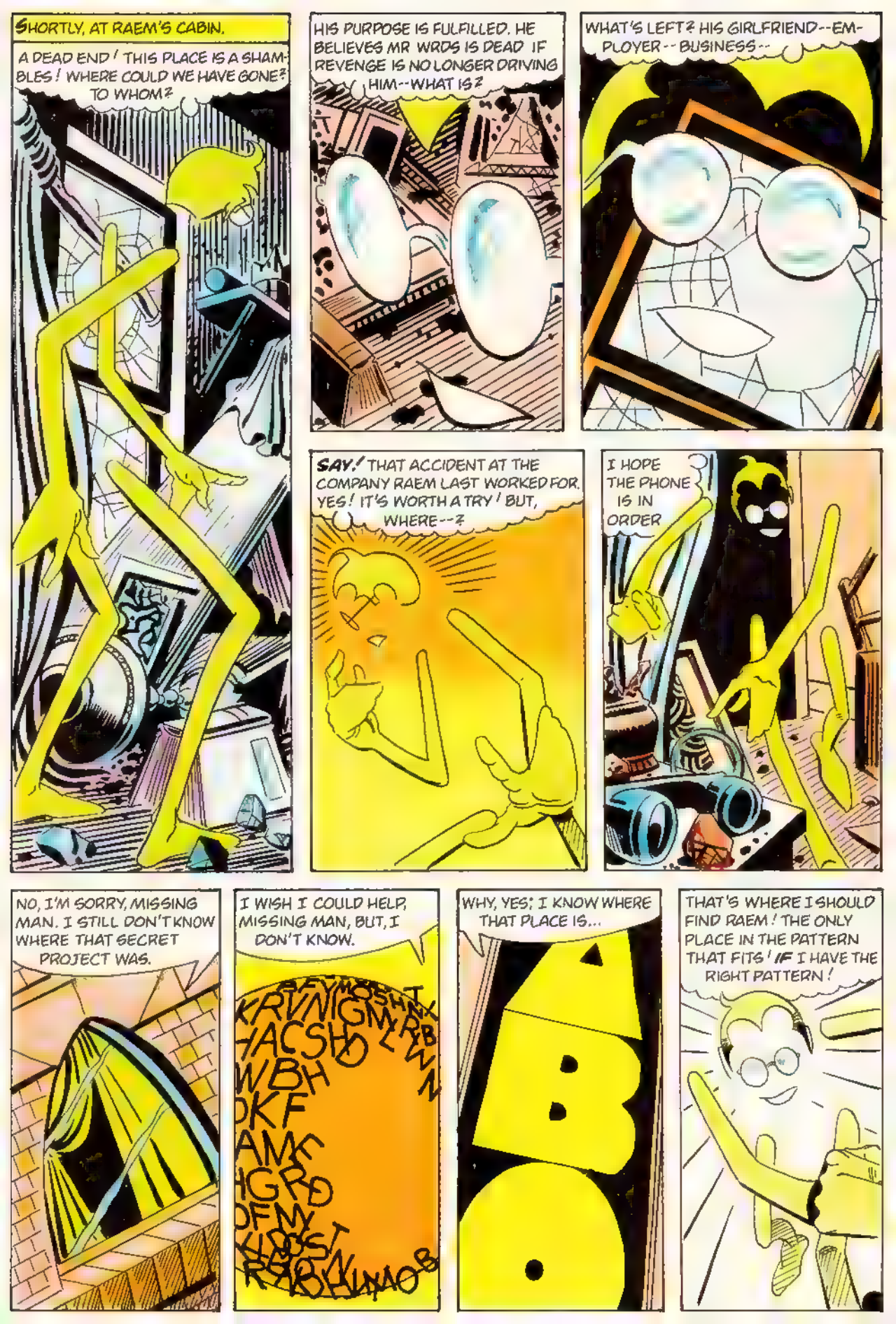
NO! NOT YET! I'D LIKE TO TRY TO HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF!

OKAY, I OWE YOU THAT. YOU SAVED MY BUSINESS AND MY LIFE.

BUT, WHERE DO I START?

HEY! RAEM HAD A CABIN--A RETREAT! ROUTE 4, BAYLOU ROAD. TWO MILES UP!

I'LL BE IN TOUCH, MR WRDS!

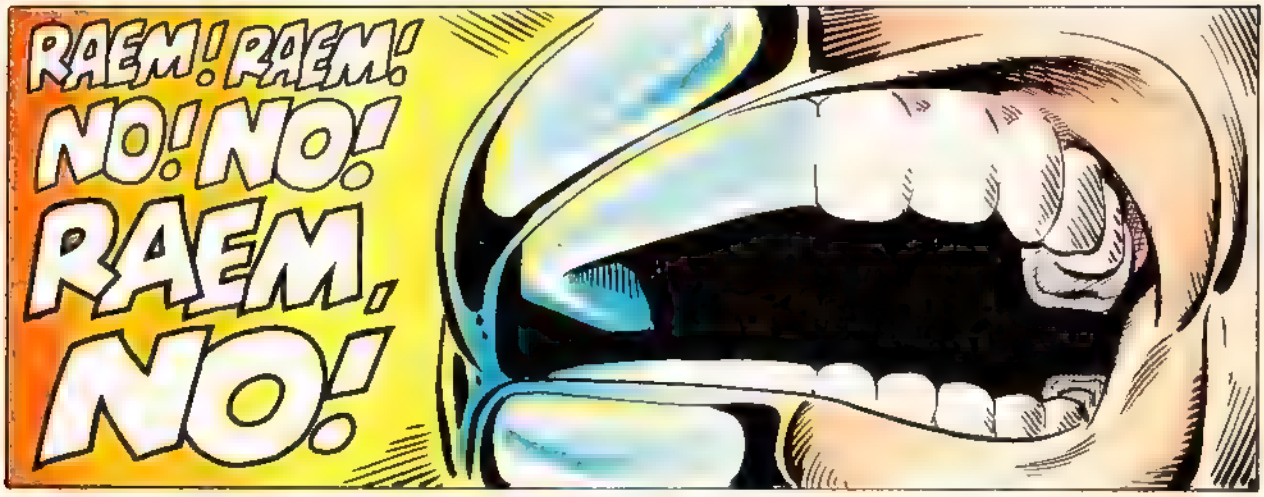

SHORTLY, AT RAEM'S CABIN.
A DEAD END! THIS PLACE IS A SHAMBLES! WHERE COULD WE HAVE GONE? TO WHOM?
HIS PURPOSE IS FULFILLED. HE BELIEVES MR WRDS IS DEAD IF REVENGE IS NO LONGER DRIVING HIM--WHAT IS?
WHAT'S LEFT? HIS GIRLFRIEND--EMPLOYER--BUSINESS--
SAY! THAT ACCIDENT AT THE COMPANY RAEM LAST WORKED FOR. YES! IT'S WORTH A TRY! BUT, WHERE--?
I HOPE THE PHONE IS IN ORDER
NO, I'M SORRY, MISSING MAN. I STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT SECRET PROJECT WAS.
I WISH I COULD HELP, MISSING MAN, BUT, I DON'T KNOW.
WHY, YES; I KNOW WHERE THAT PLACE IS...
ABOO
THAT'S WHERE I SHOULD FIND RAEM! THE ONLY PLACE IN THE PATTERN THAT FITS! IF I HAVE THE RIGHT PATTERN!

MEANWHILE, AMIDST THE ASHES AND WRECKAGE OF ANOTHER'S GRANDIOSE DREAMS TO TRANSFORM MAN—AGAINST HIS WILL, FOR HIS OWN GOOD—TO SAVE HIM FROM HIMSELF.
NO ONE HERE...NOTHING. IT'S AS IT SHOULD BE.
WHAT BROUGHT ME TO THIS STATE? WHAT? WHY?
NO, I DON'T CARE I DON'T NEED ANSWERS I'M SATISFIED.
I FEEL STRANGE. LIKE AN ALIEN.
I FEEL GOOD. AT PEACE
I DON'T BELONG HERE.
I BELONG HERE.
THIS PLACE IS DEAD. A GRAVE FOR WHAT ONCE EXISTED. I DON'T BELONG IN A GRAVE. I MUST LEAVE.
NO. THIS PLACE EXISTS FOR ME. I NEED IT. I CAN'T LEAVE. I MUST STAY HERE. I BELONG.
HELLO, RAEM.
RAEM. YOU ARE RAEM--?
RAEM. YES. I AM RAEM. RAEM.
NO. I AM MARO.
NO. I AM ROMA.
YOU ARE RAEM! TALK TO ME, RAEM. I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU, RAEM! TELL ME, RAEM, WHAT YOU CAN ABOUT THIS, RAEM. ABOUT WRDS, EVA; TELL ME, RAEM. YOU KNOW IT, RAEM!

EVA! I LOVE EVA! SHE CAME TO HELP ME!
EVA TRIED TO STOP ME. I KILLED HER.
SO EVA WAS JUST A VICTIM? MAYBE OF HER OWN MAKING?
I'M GETTING SO CONFUSED! SO TIRED!
I'M NOT. I'M FEELING STRONGER.
TIME IS RUNNING OUT. HE'S FAST REACHING A POINT OF NO RETURN.
MUST FIND A MEANS TO REACH HIM. THERE'S A CONTRADICTION IN HIM. IF I CAN FIND A WAY TO BRIDGE IT,.. FIND THE SHORT-CIRCUIT... MAKE RAEM DOMINATE OVER MARO AND ROMA... AND MY ONLY WEAPONS ARE WORDS. I CAN ONLY APPEAL TO HIS REASON--HIS RATIONALITY--
YOU ARE RAEM. AN EXPERT IN YOUR FIELD, RAEM. A RATIONAL MAN, RAEM, WHO WOULD NEVER EXERT FORCE AGAINST ANOTHER. OR KILL ANYONE, RAEM RAEM. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, RAEM?
YES. I AM RAEM I AM A MAN.
NO! I AM ROMA! NOT A MAN!
COME AWAY FROM THIS PLACE, RAEM. TELL ME WHAT YOUR THINKING, RAEM.
I AM RAEM. NO! I AM ROMA! NO! A MAN. NO! A ROBOTMAN!
RAEM, COME AWAY FROM HERE, RAEM.
YES! I MUST GO! IT'S A DEAD PLACE, HERE!
NO! I STAY! ROMA WAS BORN HERE! THIS IS MY HOME!
RAEM COME ON, RAEM.
BORN? HOME? SO CONFUSED. I AM A DREAM MY DREAM IS SLEEPY GO TO DREAM THE REAL GO TO--?
I MUST STAY! TO STAY HERE FOREVER!

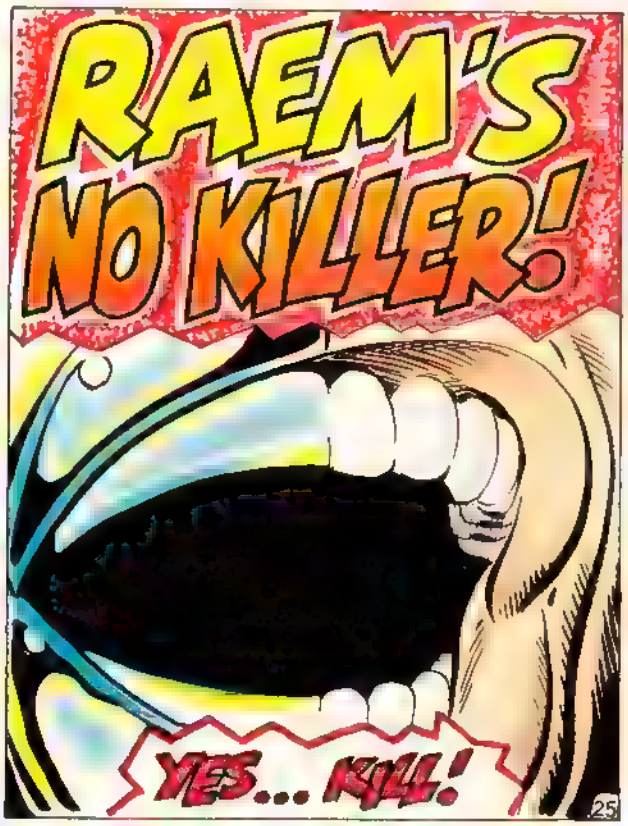
"I GO BACK... REMEMBER... LOVELY EVA... WHO I HATE... KIND MR. WRDS HE'S SO CRUEL,..CONFUSION,..VAGERY..
EXPLOSION!
"PAIN.. OH, THE PAIN.. VOICES,..NOT MINE. .THE SCREAMING . IT'S ME... SCREAMING!"
ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE HIM: OPERATE!
WE HAVE THE EQUIPMENT. THE MEANS.
THAT'S ME? NO! NO!
BLACKNESS...PAIN.. SCREAMING PAIN...GETTING LIGHTER--WHAT?!
HE'S GONE BESERK!
'EXPLOSION...WHAT IS HAPPENING...PAIN...SCREAMING,..MUST ESCAPE... RETREAT . GET HELP.. SO HURT...MR WRDS HELP..HURT, PAIN...MR WRDS... ... PAIN WRDS,..PAIN WRDS... WRDS MADE PAIN...
AAAIEEE!

FORGET YOUR DREAMS, RAEM. YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG, RAEM. YOU'RE NO KILLER, RAEM, LET'S GO, RAEM. GET HELP FOR YOU, RAEM.
YES! HELP!
NO! CAN'T LEAVE!
OH, PLEASE! HELP ME LEAVE!
NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
I CAN'T USE FORCE. THAT WOULD REALLY SET HIM OFF!
COME ON, RA--OOHH-- HE SNARED ME!
YES! GO!
NO! I WON'T EVER LEAVE!
NO, RAEM! DON'T RAEM! UNDERSTAND ME RAEM. YOU'RE NOT A KILLER, RAEM!
RAEM! UNDERSTAND ME, RAEM! DON'T DO IT, RAEM! STOP RAEM! NO,! NO!
NO! NOT A KILLER!
KILL! YES, KILL!
NO. RAEM! NO!
NO. RAEM! NO!
NO. RAEM! NO!
NO. NO. RAEM!


RAEM! RAEM!
NO! NO!
RAEM, NO!

NO, RAEM, NO!
RAEM'S NO KILLER!
I AM! I AM A KILLER!

NO! NO KILLER!
YES! KILLER!

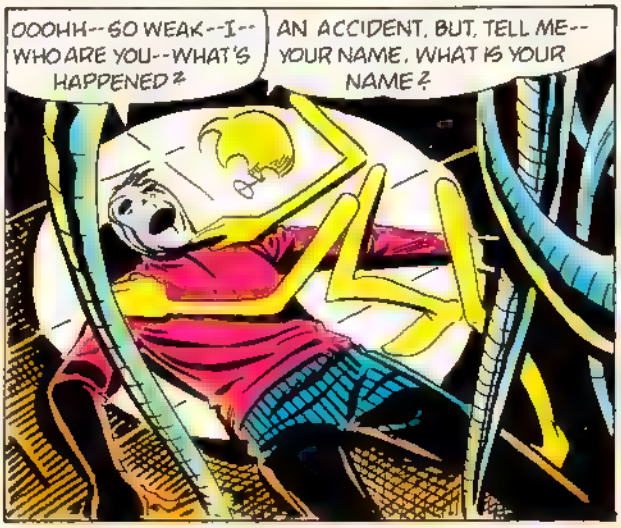

RAEM'S NO KILLER!
YES... KILL!

NO!
YES, KIL

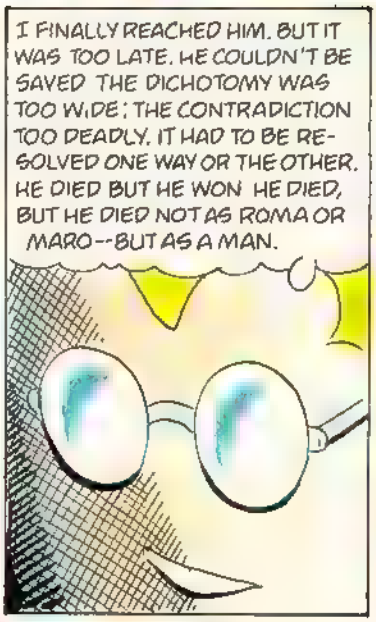
NO!
YES
KI

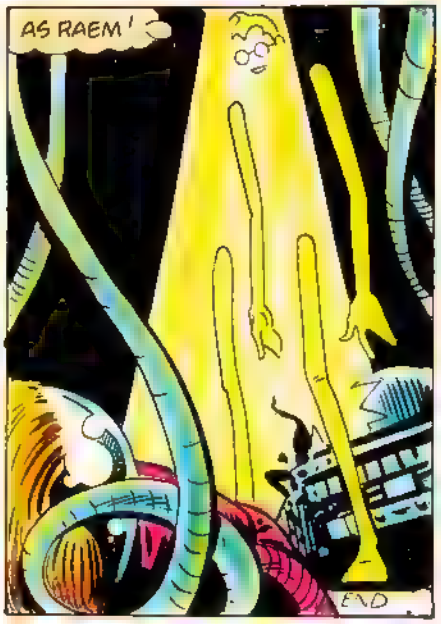
NO!

NO!
OOOOOOOH!


OOOHH--SO WEAK--I--WHO ARE YOU--WHAT'S HAPPENED?
AN ACCIDENT. BUT, TELL ME--YOUR NAME. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

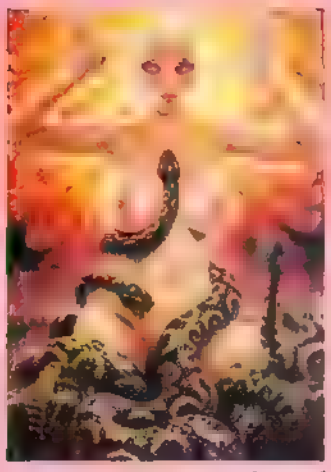
MY NAME--I AM RAEM LANET--OH, YES--I REMEMBER NOW--A-AN ACCIDENT, AND--OOOH--I AM SO WEAK--TIRED--SO--OOH..
DEAD


I FINALLY REACHED HIM. BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. HE COULDN'T BE SAVED THE DICHOTOMY WAS TOO WIDE; THE CONTRADICTION TOO DEADLY. IT HAD TO BE RESOLVED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. HE DIED BUT HE WON HE DIED, BUT HE DIED NOT AS ROMA OR MARO--BUT AS A MAN.


AS RAEM!
END

MIDNIGHT GODS

A limited edition portfolio by John Pound



Midnight Gods is a full-color suite of inspired fantasy paintings rendered in the painstaking **John Pound** manner. Each of these six interior plates is faithfully reproduced in full color. A collector's item, suitable for framing. Pound's earlier portfolio releases are sold out and command premium prices. This new release tops them all. Six interior plates in a gold-embossed presentation folder. Signed, numbered, limited-edition of only 1,200 copies. **$35.00**

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☐ ***YES!*** Please send me _____ copies of **MIDNIGHT GODS** by **John Pounds** I have enclosed $35.00 plus $2.00 for postage and handling. Canadian orders add $3 25, overseas orders add $4 25 U.S. funds only. Do not send cash

California residents please add 6% sales tax

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE ZIP _____

Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery

Dragons II

SUITABLE FOR FRAMING

Lela Dowling's first limited edition portfolio was *Dragons*, published in 1979. She has followed up with two more triumphant releases, *Unicorns* and *Unicorns II*. Now we are treated to *Dragons II*. This is a gorgeous full color portfolio, printed in the same large size (11½ x 16") as the earlier releases. There are six new interior pieces in an illustrated two color folder. The portfolio is packaged in a mylar® snug. Each of the numbered, limited edition copies (3,000) have been signed by Lela Dowling.

$20.00

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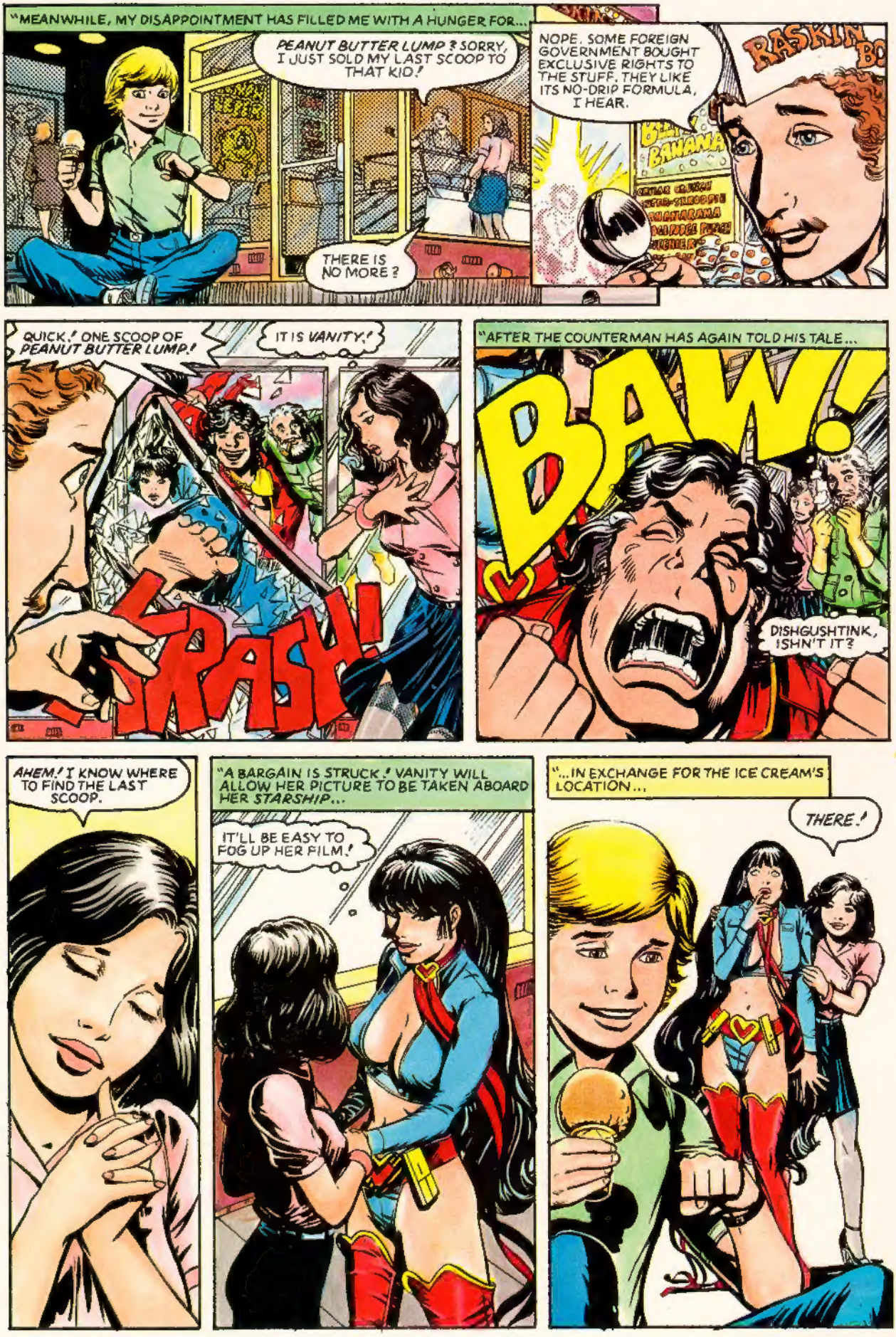
Colors: JO MEUGNOIT

"BUT MY DISAPPOINTMENT PALES BEFORE ANOTHER'S..
SOB! SNIFF BAWW!
CA..M DOWN, MA'NAN!
VHAT ISHT GOINK ON DOWN HERE, VANITY?
HIGH TRAGEDY, PROF! RASKIN BOBBINS IS TAKING PEANUT BUTTER LUMP ICE CREAM OFF THE MARKET!
SOB
HMM...
..MIDT A SHCOOP UFF IT TO COPY, I COULD USE DER MATTER TRANSMUTER HERE ON DER SHIP TO MAKE MA'NAN AS MUCH AS HE VANTED!
SNIFF..
YOU COULD?
JA, NO PROBLEM!
WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR?! LET'S BEAM DOWN TO L. A.!


"MEANWHILE, MY DISAPPOINTMENT HAS FILLED ME WITH A HUNGER FOR...
PEANUT BUTTER LUMP? SORRY, I JUST SOLD MY LAST SCOOP TO THAT KID!
THERE IS NO MORE?
NOPE. SOME FOREIGN GOVERNMENT BOUGHT EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THE STUFF. THEY LIKE ITS NO-DRIP FORMULA, I HEAR.
BANANA
QUICK! ONE SCOOP OF PEANUT BUTTER LUMP!
IT IS VANITY!
CRASH!
"AFTER THE COUNTERMAN HAS AGAIN TOLD HIS TALE...
BAW!
DISHGUSHTINK, ISHN'T IT?
AHEM! I KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE LAST SCOOP.
"A BARGAIN IS STRUCK! VANITY WILL ALLOW HER PICTURE TO BE TAKEN ABOARD HER STARSHIP...
IT'LL BE EASY TO FOG UP HER FILM!
"...IN EXCHANGE FOR THE ICE CREAM'S LOCATION...
THERE!

TEN BUCKS? SURE, MISTER! BUT YOU AIN'T GONNA EAT IT, ARE YOU?
HUH? WHY NOT?

THAT STUFF DON'T MELT!
THERE'S A SCOOP I CHUCKED IN THE STREET YESTERDAY...
...AN' HERE COMES A CAR...

SPRONG!

SEE! IT CAN'T MOVE NOW! THAT ICE CREAM IS SUPER GUNKY!
AN' I'VE BEEN EATIN' IT...

"A LIGHT GOES ON IN MY HEAD...

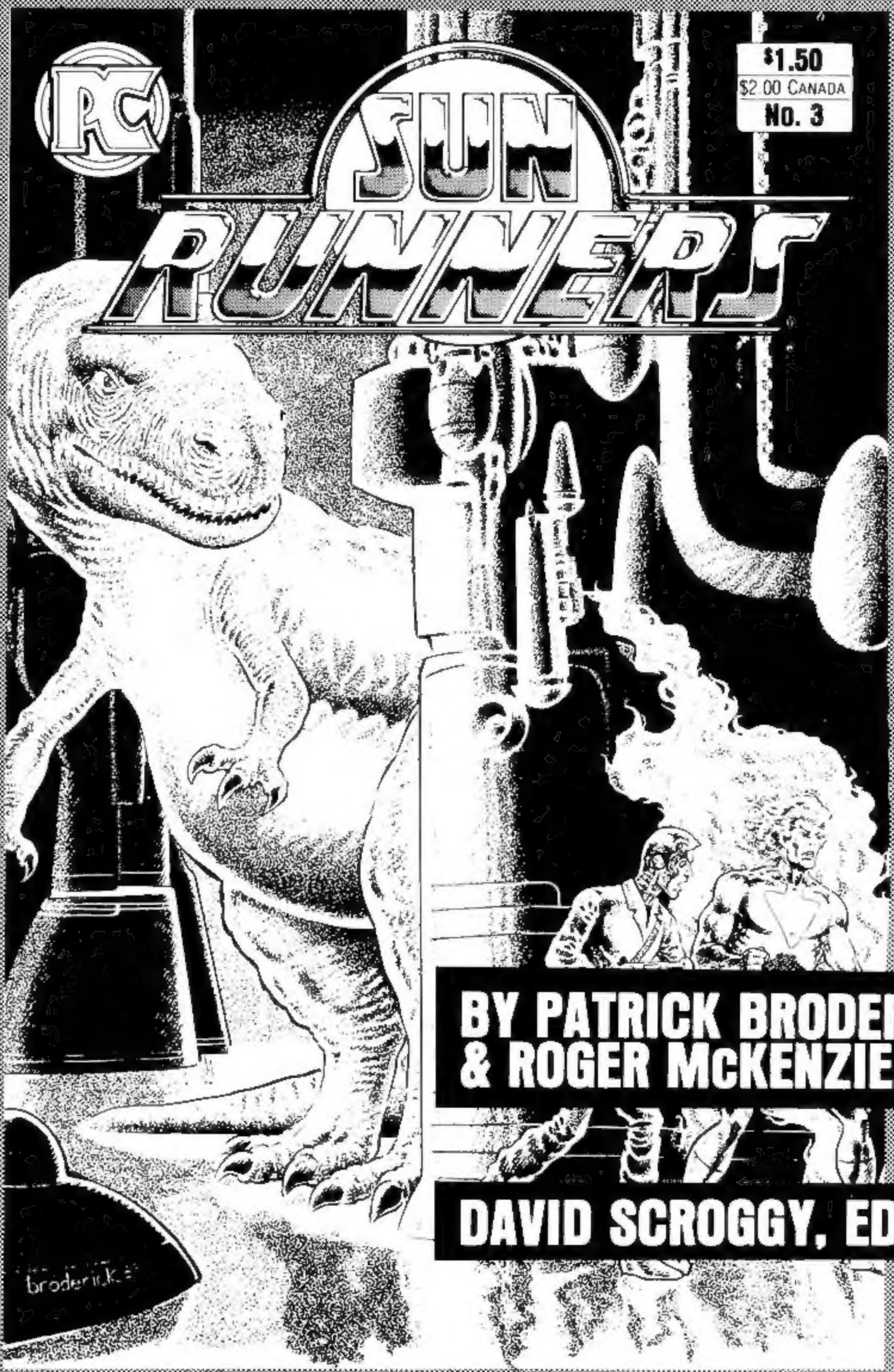
"A FEW PHONE CALLS LATER, AND I HAVE SCANLON'S STORY...
NATIONAL ENTROPY
RUSSIANS USE AMERICAN ICE CREAM AS SUPER WEAPON
by TOMIKO AKIMBO
BOOK BONUS "HOW TO MAKE LOVE TO A REAL UGLY GUY" BY PRINCESS DI

"THOUGH HE STILL WON'T BUY MY STORY ABOUT VANITY...
SORRY, LEGS! THESE PICS ARE TOO FUZZY!

"BUT THE TALE MUST BE TOLD!"
HELLO, MR. MEUGNIOT, I UNDERSTAND YOU DO COMIC BOOKS...

THE END

SUN RUNNERS 3 COMING IN MARCH

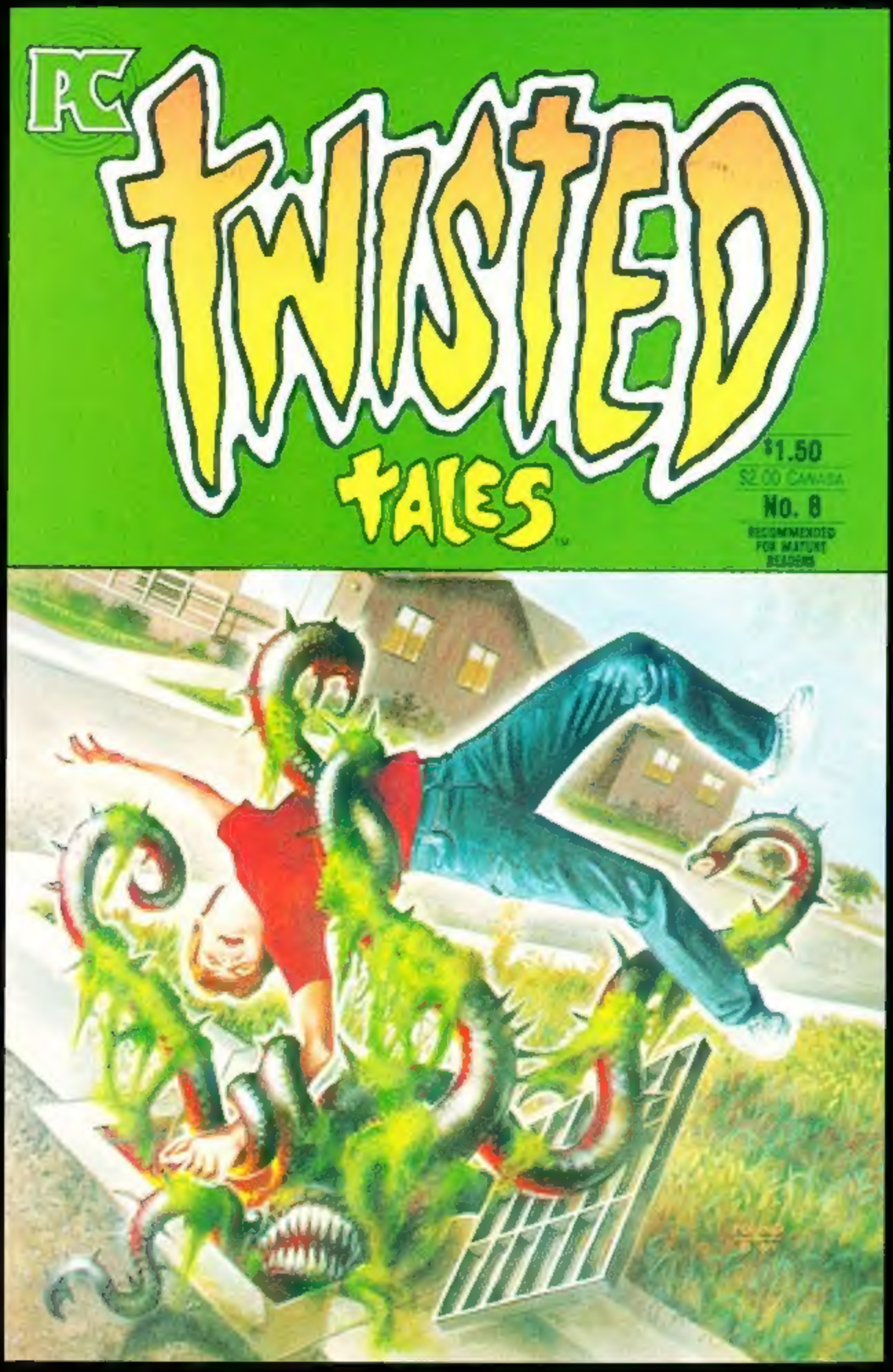


BY PATRICK BRODERICK & ROGER McKENZIE.

DAVID SCROGGY, EDITOR.

PACIFIC. TOMORROW IS HERE.

ON SALE SOON!



New Dimensions in TERROR!

BJA brucejones associates